



## **Bexar County Infrastructure Services**

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# **NEWS**

### **For immediate release:**

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### **Drilling in Olmos Dam to begin Monday**

Drivers on U.S. 281 traveling through the Olmos Basin will notice trucks and drilling equipment on the Olmos Dam beginning Monday. The County has hired Freese and Nichols Inc. to perform civil engineering design services as part of the Olmos Dam rehabilitation project. The drilling, which will help provide a detailed structural analysis of the dam, is expected to last through July 25.

The project is part of Bexar County's 10-year \$500 million Flood Control Program, which funds watershed management and flood control capital improvement projects on a regional rather than jurisdictional basis.

Under the \$730,431 engineering services agreement, Freese and Nichols will provide the County with a hydrologic and hydraulic study, which will be used to update the emergency action plan. Such a plan is needed to comply with 2005 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality inspection recommendations.

**(more)**

“The structural analysis is a proactive approach to the TCEQ requirements that are currently under consideration and will soon be adopted,” Watershed Program Coordinator Art Villarreal said. “The analysis is an investment in the safety of lives and property downstream from the dam. The County is performing its due diligence in its responsibility to maintain infrastructure that affects the citizens of Bexar County.”

Olmos Dam, completed in 1927, was one of two major features of a flood control plan instituted after the 1921 flood that killed at least 50 people and devastated downtown San Antonio. The second major feature was the “cutoff channel,” which protects the Great Bend of the river from flooding.